**Romance**

A fictional story in verse or prose that relates improbable adventures of idealized characters in some remote or enchanted setting; or, more generally, a tendency in fiction opposite to that of realism. Prose romances differ from novels in their preference for allegory and psychological exploration rather than realistic social observation, especially in Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Blithedale Romance.*

Other examples include the Gothic novel and popular romance novels. Now some science fiction and detective novels could be considered variants of the romance.

**Allegory**

A story or visual image with a second distinct meaning partially hidden behind its literal or visible meaning. The principal technique of allegory is personification, whereby abstract qualities are given human shape. In written narrative, allegory involves a continuous parallel between two or more levels of meaning in a story, so that its characters, places, things, and events represent abstract qualities. Such characters, places, things, and events thus often function as symbols of the concepts or ideas referred to.

It is a complete and self-contained narrative signifying another set of conditions. In other words, it tells a real story and a symbolic story at the same time.

Think about the ways in which symbolism and allegory operate in “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” and “Young Goodman Brown.”

Consider the allegorical dimensions of "Young Goodman Brown":

* Goodman Brown = Everyman
* Faith’s pink ribbons = naïve religious views
* Goodman Brown’s journey = Journey through life
* The stranger = Satan
* Others?